

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-4, 7-9 and 13-15 and 17-22 with remain pending in the above identified application pending, with claims 1-4, 8-9, 13-15 and 18-22 standing rejected, and claims 7 and 17 being objected to.

Support for the amendments made to claim 1 can be found in original claims 6, 10 or 11, and 16, and in claim 1 as previously amended on November 18, 2002 (wherein claim 1 was amended to recite certain limitations found in original claim 5, etc.).

Regarding the cancellation of claims 6 and 16, the same was done to avoid a redundancy with instant amended claim 1. Similarly, the dependency of claims 7 and 17 has been changed to "claim 1" based on the cancellation of claims 6 and 16.

Entry of the instant amendment is respectfully requested, as the amendment puts each of the pending claims 1-4, 7-9 and 13-15 and 17-22 in condition for allowance, or alternatively, presents rejected claims in a better form for consideration on appeal.

Further, entry is also appropriate at present in that the amendment does not raise any substantial new issues for the Examiner's consideration or otherwise require any further search on the Examiner's part.

Issues Under 35 USC § 103

The rejection of claims 1-4, 8-9, 13-15 and 18-22, as set forth in paragraph 3 of the outstanding Office Action, as obvious over Ikeda et al. (US 5,952,429) under the provisions of 35 USC § 103(a) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration and withdraw thereof is respectfully requested based on both the amendments made herein and the following considerations.

First, the Examiner's attention is directed to the following disclosure at page 3, lines 7-19 of the instant specification:

According to the investigation conducted by the inventors, it has been found that when a pigment in the form of particles having a particle diameter of 0.01-0.3 μm is dispersed in an organic solvent in such a state that a silicone graft polymer is adsorbed to the surface of the pigment, steric repulsive force between pigment particles per se is enhanced to prevent sedimentation of the pigment, and, besides, dispersion stability can be increased and print stability can be improved, and, furthermore, print quality can be improved by the use of the pigment and the organic solvent.

Second, the Examiner's attention is directed to page 51, Table 3, in the specification, wherein test results for exemplary compositions 1-7 of the instant invention are compared with those of comparative examples 1-3:

Table 3

	Properties of ink		After storage test		Printing test		
	Particle diameter	Viscosity	Particle diameter	Viscosity	Sediment	Printing stability	Re-dischargeability
Example 1	0.123	2.8	0.122	2.8	○	○	○
Comparative Example 1	0.903	3.8	1.324	4.2	×	×	×
Example 2	0.175	2.9	0.177	2.8	○	○	○
Comparative Example 2	1.451	3.1	1.415	3.5	×	×	×
Example 3	0.182	2.7	0.181	2.7	○	○	○
Example 4	0.117	2.7	0.116	2.7	○	○	○
Comparative Example 3	0.789	12.5	1.155	13.8	×	×	×
Example 5	0.113	2.9	0.111	2.9	○	○	○
Example 6	0.173	2.9	0.179	2.8	○	○	○
Example 7	0.122	2.7	0.125	2.7	○	○	○

Accordingly, it is submitted that such disclosure and test results in the instant specification show and evidence that in the present invention, the steric repulsive force between pigment particles *per se* is enhanced to prevent sedimentation of the pigment, and thereby, dispersion stability can be increased and print stability can be improved. As a result, by using an ink for ink jet printers containing a pigment and organic solvent according to the instantly claimed invention, print quality can be improved.

In contrast to the instant invention as claimed, the cited Ikeda et al. reference does not disclose or suggest any ink for an ink jet printer as is recited in the pending claims (e.g., see

claim 1), or otherwise disclose or render obvious the unexpected and advantageous properties that are possessed thereby.

Consequently, absent such teachings in the cited art of Ikeda et al, and absent any motivation in Ikeda et al., which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the instant invention as claimed, it follows that the outstanding rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) over the disclosure of Ikeda et al. cannot be sustained and must be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's courtesy in indicating that claims 6-7 and 16-17 contain allowable subject matter. However, based on the amendment made herein to claim 1, it is submitted that each of the pending claims under consideration (claims 1-4, 7-9 and 13-15 and 17-22) are now in condition for allowance so that no further amendment of claims 7 and 17 is required or otherwise needed at present.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview

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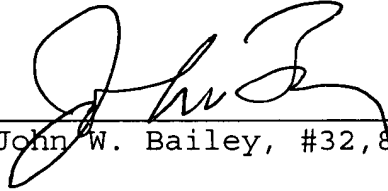
in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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